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BRONX PHARMACIST CHARGED BY U.S. WITH
UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JOHN P. KILBRIDE, the Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's ("DEA") New York Office, announced the filing of an Information charging KENNETH FERST, 56, of New York, New York, with illegally distributing a controlled substance, namely anabolic steroids, to a person who did not have a prescription for the steroids. FERST is the owner of Whitestone Pharmacy, located at 3838 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York.

According to the criminal Complaint filed on February 22, 2005, and the Information filed today in Manhattan federal court, FERST, on three separate occasions from December 2004 through February 2005, sold Nandrolone Decanoate, an injectable anabolic steroid known to increase muscle mass, and Tamoxifen Citrate, a medicine commonly used to counteract gynomastia (a side effect

commonly suffered by those who use steroids in connection with bodybuilding), to an individual who was cooperating with the authorities. That individual never provided FERST with a medical prescription to obtain these steroids.

The defendant is charged in the Information with distributing, and possessing with the intent to distribute, a controlled substance, namely anabolic steroids. If convicted, the defendant faces 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The Information also seeks forfeiture of any proceeds FERST obtained directly or indirectly as a result of his illegal steroid dealing, and any and all property used in any manner to commit and to facilitate the commission of the crime.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force in this case and said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID LEIBOWITZ and JOHN O'DONNELL are in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Information is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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